

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 have been examined and are all the claims pending in the application. The examiner has indicated that claims 20-22 are allowed. Additionally, the examiner has indicated that claims 7-9 and 11-19 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. (Emphasis added). Applicants respectfully note that claim 15 is an independent claim and claims 16-19 depend on claim 15. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request clarification from the examiner as to which claims are considered allowable.

Applicants thank the examiner for acknowledging applicants' claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) and further for acknowledging receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants also thank the examiner for considering all the references cited in PTO Form 1449 that were submitted with applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 3, 2003.

Applicants are submitting a corrected formal drawing for Figure 1 for the examiner's review and acceptance.

Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 10 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,535,292 B1 (hereinafter Kuroi). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As described in Applicants' specification on page 3, lines 1-16, in conventional printer control systems all the print commands related to one print job are saved until the print job is completed. Kuroi teaches a similar approach. (See, e.g., col. 8, lines 3-10).

In particular, Kuroi discloses that “[w]hen it is decided in step (4) that the print request received from the application indicates the end of the printing, step (9) follows and the band memory is released from the RAM 2. The process is finished.” (Col. 7, lines 32-35)(emphasis added).

Kuroi’s approach of releasing the band memory after a print end request is received fails to correspond to, teach or suggest claim 1.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a process operation for rendering an area of said memory where said print command has been stored rewritable so that another print command converted from said print data can be stored in said area.

Accordingly, in claim 1, the area of memory where each of the print commands is read out is made rewritable during the process operation of a plural print commands converted from the same print data, and not when the printing operation ends, as taught by Kuroi.

Additionally, Kuroi discloses that the reserved memory area itself is released. However, with respect to claim 1, the memory of “a certain size” itself is not released, but an area of the memory (e.g. the area of memory where the print command has been stored) is made rewritable so that another print command converted from the print data can be stored in the area of memory. These aspects of memory management between claim 1 and Kuroi are completely different.

For at least these reasons, Kuroi fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Claims 2-6 are patentable by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

For reasons analogous to those presented above with respect to claim 1, independent claim 10 is patentable over Kuroi. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

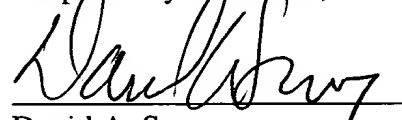
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,


David A. Sumy
Registration No. 50,387

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